

**From:** Conner Everts  
**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2005 4:57 PM  
**To:** Dabbs, Paul  
**Subject:** Water Plan Comments

As a member of the State Desal Task Force and the Prop. 50 Desal review committee, I just wanted to make a couple of quick comments. The challenge of equating projected water to real supply is a hurdle that the SW plan has done a much better job of this time. While Desal has much promise we should not count on that water and realize that it is not without consequences, including environmental, both to the marine ecosystem and to environmental justice communities-cost and water quality. The lack of consensus from the Task Force left many finding recommendations representing the many views of its members. Some of its recommendations go beyond normal levels of conservation, for example, "to the maximum extent possible." That would mean more conservation, urban and AG that is planned for bulletin 160. The most obvious misstatement, though saying there are 30 desalting plants operating providing municipal water. To not separate ocean water Desal- zero- and brackish, which is what you must mean for the 30, is misleading. 30, however, is a good number for the number of proposed ocean Desal plants. The fact that there are no large scale ocean Desal plants, and even the Yuma Desalter fails to produce, in this country, would put the reality of this water in the short term in better perspective. Furthermore, the claim that Ocean Desalination is anywhere near the cost of imported water supplies is again misleading. Heavily dependent on energy costs, desal does not approach current imported costs in Southern California and to say it might is purely speculative. Finally to assume a environmental benefit is again not yet real, it would also have to offset the potential for more growth and therefore runoff and demand. Otherwise I appreciate your inclusion of issues and think we should only look to it as a future source, after reclaimed and all conservation have been truly maximized.

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